

Draft European resolution on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for 2023-2027

- ① The Senate,
- ② Having regard to Article 88-4 of the French Constitution,
- ③ Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, in particular Article 3 thereof,
- ④ Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in particular Articles 4, 170 and 189 thereof,
- ⑤ Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 912/2010, (EU) 1285/2013 and (EU) 377/2014 and Decision 541/2014/EU,
- ⑥ Having regard to Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of 11 December 2018 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code,
- ⑦ Having regard to Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade”,
- ⑧ Having regard to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2022 establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027,
- ⑨ Having regard to the Council’s negotiating mandate of 30 June 2022 on this Proposal for a Regulation,
- ⑩ Having regard to the Joint Communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament and the Council of 15 February 2022, entitled “An EU approach for Space Traffic Management. An EU contribution addressing a global challenge”,

- ⑪ Having regard to Law 2008-5018 of 3 June 2008 on space operations,
- ⑫ Having regard to Senate Information Report No. 636 (2018-2019) by Mr André Gattolin and Mr Jean-François Rapin on behalf of the European Affairs Committee, entitled “Space Policy 2021-2027: Europe on the launchpad?”, submitted on 4 July 2019,
- ⑬ Having regard to Senate Information Report No. 131 (2019-2020) by Ms Sophie Primas and Mr Jean-Marie Bockel on behalf of the Economic Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee on the space launcher policy, submitted on 19 Novembre 2019,
- ⑭ Having regard to the “Net Zero Space” initiative, launched at the 4th Paris Peace Forum on 11 and 12 November 2021,
- ⑮ Having regard to the conclusions of the first session of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference on 17 March 2022, chaired by the Senate,
- ⑯ Whereas the digital transition is of crucial importance for business competitiveness, economic growth and the purposes of European citizens;
- ⑰ Whereas, therefore, the connectivity needs of citizens and businesses are increasing and whereas the European Union has announced targets for connectivity and digital use by 2030;
- ⑱ Whereas there is a need to ensure that all Europeans have access to good quality and affordable telecommunications services;
- ⑲ Whereas, moreover, new digital uses, in particular connected objects and autonomous vehicles, require increasingly shorter latency times and faster connection speeds;
- ⑳ Whereas international cooperation in the space industry has recently come to a halt due to the geopolitical situation;
- ㉑ Whereas, with a view to European sovereignty, it is vital that the Union’s and the Member States’ institutional and governmental uses of telecommunications are not critically dependent on the

infrastructure and services of third countries or entities controlled by third countries;

⑫ Whereas, therefore, the European Union needs to have sovereign, autonomous and sustainable access to space;

⑬ Whereas terrestrial telecommunications networks and earth stations are vulnerable to both physical attacks and cyberattacks and, consequently, there is a need for redundant telecommunications systems and better security of communications systems, in particular governmental communications systems, that could make use of new technologies, in particular quantum technologies;

⑭ Whereas considerable and regular investment is needed to ensure the deployment of a sovereign European secure connectivity constellation, taking government needs into account;

⑮ Whereas the European, and in particular the French, space industrial ecosystem is excellent;

⑯ Whereas the long-established operators in the space industry and the “New Space” operators complement each other throughout the value chain;

⑰ Whereas the number of satellites in orbit – particularly in low earth orbit – is increasing exponentially, as are the risks of space congestion and collisions, including the proliferation of space debris;

⑱ Whereas there is a limited period of time during which frequencies to be used by satellite constellations can be reserved with the International Telecommunication Union;

⑲ Whereas the objectives of the secure connectivity constellation project should be linked to the sustainable development goals;

⑳ *On the project and its objectives:*

㉑ Supports fully the Commission’s plan to create a sovereign connectivity constellation, with a triple objective of secure government communications, white zone coverage and complementary commercial services;

- ③② Agrees with the objective of providing European institutional and governmental stakeholders with highly secure satellite connectivity systems with worldwide coverage;
- ③③ Expresses hope that the cost of accessing satellite connectivity services provided by the constellation will remain affordable for individuals and businesses, effectively helping to eliminate white zones, bridge the digital divide and accelerate the digital transformation of businesses;
- ③④ *On the deployment schedule:*
- ③⑤ Supports the fastest possible deployment of the constellation;
- ③⑥ Emphasises however the need for detailed and comprehensive requirements gathering from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for the purpose of defining a properly calibrated portfolio of government services;
- ③⑦ *On funding:*
- ③⑧ Considers that the €6 billion announced by the Commission for the deployment of the constellation by 2027 can only be considered as seed money;
- ③⑨ Emphasises that this funding will have to be supplemented by additional funds under the European Space Programme, as part of the next multiannual financial framework;
- ④⑩ Expresses hope that discussions will begin as soon as possible with the private partners of the commercial part of the programme, so as to secure the share of funding expected from the private sector and strengthen the constellation's business model;
- ④⑪ Requests that the European Parliament and national parliaments of the Member States be regularly informed by the European Commission of developments in the implementation of the public-private partnership scheme proposed for the constellation, including its financial and governance implications;
- ④⑫ *On commercial services and the involvement of the private sector:*
- ④⑬ Approves the public-private partnership scheme proposed by the European Commission;

- ④④ Aims to ensure that the publicly funded deployment of the constellation does not lead to distortions of competition in the provision of commercial services, to the advantage of government service providers, and therefore advocates fair pricing of government systems;
- ④⑤ Supports the provisions ensuring that start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises can be involved in the public procurement of the constellation along the entire value chain;
- ④⑥ Emphasises the complementary nature of the services offered by “New Space” operators and more established players in the European space industry;
- ④⑦ Expresses hope that more explicit sovereignty and security conditions will be set for the participation and funding of private-sector operators whose governance is mainly non-European;
- ④⑧ Calls for vigilance with regard to the risk of takeovers of European companies involved in the programme, in particular small- and medium-sized “New Space” companies, by non-European companies and therefore for close monitoring of their capital structure and governance;
- ④⑨ Calls for the 2008 Law on Space Operations to inform future EU regulation on traffic management, so that commercial services can be offered using government connectivity infrastructures;
- ⑤⑩ *On launchers and launch bases:*
- ⑤⑪ Expresses hope that a European preference for launchers and launch bases will be clearly stated;
- ⑤⑫ Asserts that exceptions from this principle, in the event of the unavailability of adequate European infrastructure jeopardising the viability of the constellation, must be occasional and strictly limited and controlled;
- ⑤⑬ Emphasises that such exceptions must not be authorised for financial reasons;
- ⑤⑭ Emphasises the need for the European Union to have sufficient sovereign capabilities as soon as possible to deploy the constellation;

- ⑤ Insists therefore on the need for the European Union to position itself firmly as an anchor customer for European heavy launchers;
- ⑥ Considers it appropriate to make use, albeit on a complementary basis, of micro-launchers to deploy or replace components of the constellation, so as to guarantee, where appropriate, a high degree of safety for those launchers;
- ⑦ *On safety:*
- ⑧ Insists on the need to install the earth stations associated with the operation of the constellation in highly secure locations within the territory of the European Union, unless an exception is warranted based on operational requirements, with equivalent security guarantees;
- ⑨ Emphasises the need to take into account, in the relevant technical specifications, the risks of interference and interception, including malicious interference and interception;
- ⑩ Supports the plan to secure government communications in the long term through the use of European quantum technologies;
- ⑪ Emphasises the need to plan ahead for the transition from current security technologies to quantum computing and post-quantum cryptography technologies, the arrangements for this transition needing to be adjusted in line with the constellation's deployment schedule;
- ⑫ *On environmental aspects and space traffic management:*
- ⑬ Expresses hope that the conditions for the deployment of the constellation will take full account of the need to ensure sustainable access to space and minimise its impact in terms of space pollution, including atmospheric and light pollution;
- ⑭ Considers it essential to speed up the planned schedule for the European Commission's presentation of a legislative act on space traffic management, so that its provisions can be fully operational at the time the constellation is deployed;
- ⑮ Calls on the Government to put forward this position during negotiations in the Council.